



YCCCART Newsletter

Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham & Cleeve

Archaeological Research Team

The Future of the Past

Edition 1

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* **Everyone is welcome to join YCCCART, old and young.**

* **As well as manual and electronic surveys we do archaeological excavations, field walks, visual surveys and record features on local buildings.**

* **We meet every Thursday. Call 01934 838018 to join in.**



Yes! This little bronze figure was found in Yatton at Henley, just north of Cadbury Hill, before quarrying destroyed the site of a Roman temple. Although small (about 8cm high) this female goddess is perfectly formed for an object over 2000 years old. It is special enough to be on permanent display in North

Somerset Museum, Weston super Mare. Why not go and see her?

YCCCART would like to thank Jane Hill and the staff at the museum for their unstinting and continuing support of our projects. Also for allowing us to reproduce the photo of the bronze figure.

What is YCCCART?

You may have seen "Time Team" on Channel 4 showing a team of archaeologists and Tony Robinson researching and digging sites in 3 days flat. Well we are the local amateur version of it and we even use the same equipment "as seen on TV."

Our teams work to professional standards and are fast. But our projects can last for weeks, months and even years. (not just 3 days!).

YCCCART is pronounced ICCART, so not to confuse us with the yogurt drink.

In 2004 a group of like minded (some would say slightly mad) members of both Congresbury & Yatton Local History Societies came together to form a group to carry out supervised archaeological work in and around the villages of Yatton, Congresbury, Claverham & Cleeve, to learn about the area and see what lurked below the surface.

The group is supervised and supported by North Somerset County Archaeologist Vince Russett.

Without his enthusiasm, hard work and expertise we would not have got off the ground or obtained a

Heritage Lottery Grant of £34,100 in order to purchase equipment to specifically study Cadbury Hill and surrounding area and the Congresbury Roman kiln sites.



Geoff taking the Bartington 601 Gradiometer for a walk over someone's lawn.

Cadbury Hill

Cadbury Hill is an Iron Age hill fort. It is nationally important as it was re-occupied in the post-Roman period. During this period a high status group on the hill imported goods from the Eastern Mediterranean, North Africa, perhaps France and Spain as well as the eastern Anglo Saxon areas.

YCCCART has carried out a manual survey on the hill and will soon undertake gradiometry and resistivity surveys.

Over the last year YCCCART has also given walks and talks on the hill and helped clear scrub.

Take a walk on the hill and see the wonderful clearance work undertaken by Yatton and Congresbury Parish Councils.



90 school children from St Andrew's school Congresbury enjoyed a guided walk on the hill in January 2010. The photo above shows some of the children sitting on a round house. They later sent thank you letters with this lovely drawing, and made diary entries such as the one on the right.



The Celts made round houses on Cadbury Hill. The whole family lived in one small house. They had to go all the way down the hill to get food. The chief lived at the high point of the hill. They traded with other people in the world. After a battle they sliced off other peoples heads and took them home to their wives.

The Green Man of Cadbury

A most intelligent and reliable lady told us that in 1940 she was 7 and on a family outing up Cadbury Hill one hot summer day. As they reached the top she saw a strange figure about 100 yards away standing in waist-high bracken. He, or it, seemed to tower over the surrounding greenery. The upper body and head were a distinct recognisable shape, but

the lower part of the body merged into or was hidden by the dense vegetation. The figure wore an untidy helmet of leaves. The leaves framed a dark featureless flat face which seemed to stare

"He's looking at us and he's covered in leaves"

in their direction. The shoulders were clearly outlined but were concealed under a cloak of darker leaves. She turned to her mother and cried out "Look mummy there's a funny man over there. He's looking at us and he's covered in leaves". Her mother said that she couldn't see anything and indeed when she looked again the figure had disappeared. Fifty years later the same lady experienced a shock when she saw the figure of the green man on a church bench end much like the one seen on Cadbury.

The Key to Cadbury Hill

Brian Bradbury got hold of this huge key said to unlock the cap to a mine shaft on Cadbury and thought he would find out about it. His research revealed that in 1978 a hole appeared after snow. Investigations revealed a shaft about 150 feet deep and 8 - 10 feet in diameter at the top, tapering to about 5 feet at the bottom. This shaft was partly covered with old railway timbers placed there after a previous collapse earlier in the

last century. No passages led off the shaft and there were no signs of haulage marks on the sides or of any other mining remains in the immediate vicinity.

Was this a trial shaft in search of iron ore?

A few years before 1978 a similar, though only 40 foot deep shaft opened up in the grounds of the Cadbury House Hotel and two are said to exist

further along the ridge towards Claverham.



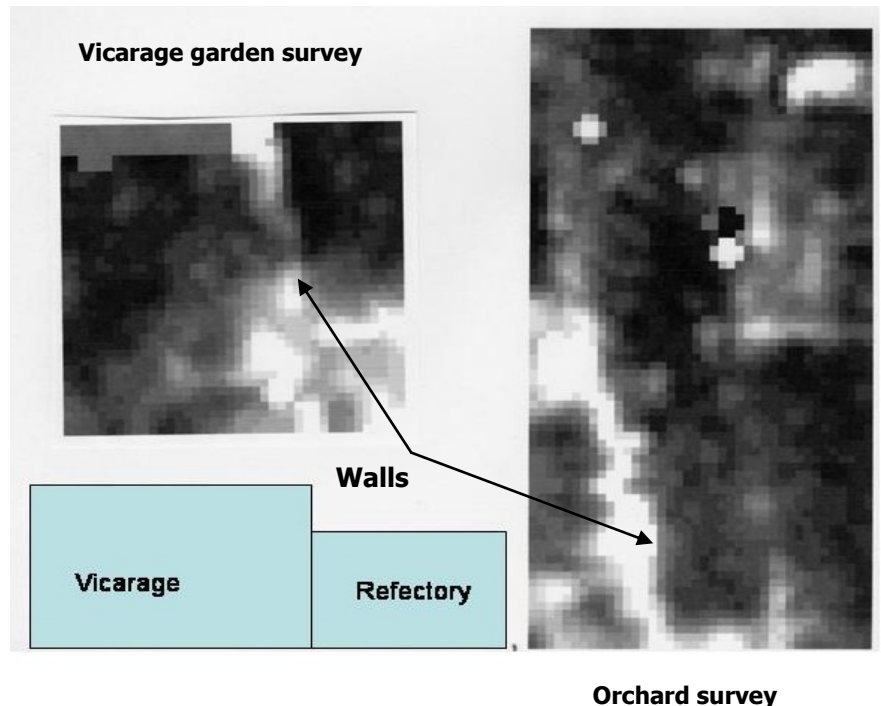
Brian and the key

The Lost Court at Congresbury Church

One of the most exciting survey results this year relates to surveys around St Andrew's church. In the prayer garden / orchard beside the Refectory and in the vicar's garden, resistivity surveys revealed walls of a substantial building or buildings.

A section of the Refectory was demolished in 1823 and replaced by the current vicarage. The walls revealed from surveys are on the same alignment as this demolished section. They also tie up with walls found by archaeologist Richard Broomhead when he excavated an evaluation trench in the orchard in 2008.

It is possible that the surveys show the buildings demolished in the 1390s which may include the Bishop's Court.



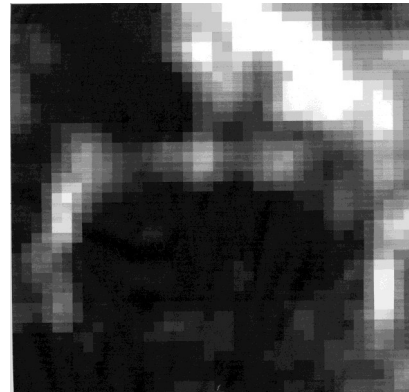
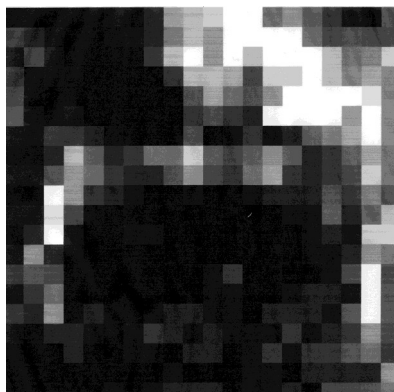
Resistivity explained

The picture above shows the survey in the vicarage orchard/prayer garden and vicarage back garden at St Andrew's Church, Congresbury and shows black and white areas of resistivity patterns. Resistivity is one of several methods of seeing what is buried underground without lifting even a spade-full of soil. How is this possible?

The area under study has been carefully examined with a resistivity meter, which detects differences in the electrical conductivity of the soil at depths of about half a metre. Buried stone features such as wall footings and gravel show high resistance compared with the surrounding soil, while filled ditches or pits, post-holes, etc. can be wetter than the surrounding soil and have lower resistance.

The machine we use has two metal spikes (probes) set half a metre apart and a control box which passes a low current (1mA) between them when they are inserted about 3cm below the surface (see picture). Of course a single measurement shows you nothing you can interpret, but when the readings are taken at regular 1m intervals over a large area, patterns begin to emerge. Usually we divide the area under study into 20m grids, which gives 400 readings per grid.

The grids below show how the computer interprets the readings, with high resistivity shown (in this instance) in white, low in black. Centre picture is the original data, with computer-enhanced image shown on the right.



The Amazing YCCCART Enclosures

Work in the woodlands on the western end of Broadfield Down (east of Cadbury Hill) has identified many enclosures which share a number of similar features, and which may potentially have been occupied in the post-Roman period.

The penannular ring shown in the illustration is of Bickley 1, constructed entirely of stone rubble, 60m x 60m, although the slight flaring of both north and south terminals of the bank makes it look more oval in plan.

The west side of the enclosure is absent, but the terminals meet a local steep break of slope.

A long apron of stones on the north east side of the enclosure is the result of bank collapse down the steep slope.

The north and east sides of the enclosure have an internal ditch, which does not appear to continue onto the higher south side.

An 'entrance' at the south-east side of the enclosure may be a recent phenomenon, as it has a small quarry working of unknown date next to it, which has partially destroyed the bank in that area.

Adjacent to the quarry structure, careful cleaning of the surface of the bank has shown that it originally seems to have been of faced dry stone wall construction, probably about 2m thick.

Internally, a number of circular and sub circular earthwork scoops and platforms can be

seen, mostly 8 – 10m across, which may well be the sites of buildings or other structures, some of which appear to have stone spreads as part of their structures.



YCCCART manual survey of Bickley 1 above

YCCCART Ancient Recipe

Chicken Casserole Roman Style

Serves 4. Ingredients

Chicken breasts - 500 grams (Allow one chicken breast per person)

1 medium size piece of broccoli

125 grams small whole mushrooms

125 grams sliced carrots

125 grams fresh /frozen peas

1/4 teaspoon of coriander

1/4 table spoon of ground black pepper

1/4 tablespoon of thyme

1 small bay leaf

1/4 table spoon celery salt

Enough chicken stock to just cover the ingredients

Method: Prepare vegetables. Wash the broccoli and break into florets. Wipe mushrooms and leave whole. Wash, peel and slice carrots. If fresh shell peas. Mix together dry ingredients. Place chicken breasts, prepared vegetables and other dry ingredients into a suitable dish. Pour just enough chicken stock over ingredients. Put into pre heated oven—middle shelf at 350 degrees for 30-40 minutes or until chicken /vegetables thoroughly cooked.

The ingredients in our recipe are very familiar to us today. If the Romans had not invaded I wonder what we would be eating? The Romans had no potatoes but made bread with spelt flour. This can be bought in supermarkets and generally has a recipe for Roman bread on the packet. A bottle of Italian wine goes well with this dish.

We are on the web.

[www. YCCCART.co.uk](http://www.YCCCART.co.uk)

Read our reports & catch up with our progress

For further information please contact Brian Bradbury on 01934 838018



LOTTERY FUNDED

Look out for the next YCCCART newsletter with more wonderful survey results and another recipe.